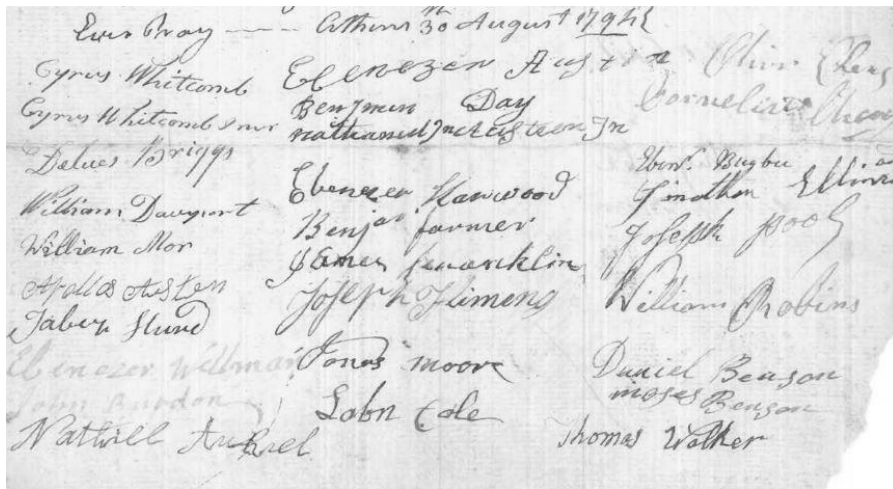


EDITOR'S PREFACE

In this issue, we showcase a valuable, and sometimes underused, resource for Vermont genealogy: The Vermont State Archives in Middlesex, Vermont. Most of its collection is not digitized though its helpful staff scans documents for researchers who cannot make the trip in person. The Vermont Archives preserves original documents, all of which are artifacts of our state's rich history. In the first installment of a continuing *Vermont Genealogy* series, Archivist Sally Blanchard O'Brien contributes **GEMS FROM THE VERMONT STATE ARCHIVES: PETITION OF ROGER FULLER OF BRANDON**. The petition, written in Fuller's own hand, evokes the plight of a man afflicted by an autumn flood that took out most of his property. This document became the launching point of reconstructing Roger Fuller's life as an early Vermont industrialist. Elsewhere in this issue, documents from the Archives make their way into other articles. An example appears below in the 1794 petition to incorporate the town of Brookline. For genealogists wanting more than just names and dates, here is a glimpse of their ancestors on a grass-roots level. Sometimes signatures are all that remain from an interdependent community of friends and neighbors, as those who put pen in hand here:



A trio of articles develops multi-generational studies of Vermont families living here at the time of the first United States census. Robert M. Murphy's **VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791: LEWIS HALL OF SMITHFIELD, VERMONT, AND HIS DESCENDANTS** culminates more than thirty years of research on a northwestern Vermont family who lived in a town that disappeared from the map. A frequent contributor to *Vermont Genealogy*, Bob Murphy draws heavily on deeds and town records for Part One of this compiled genealogy. Just when he thought his research was "complete," our reappraisal of ditto marks in the Vermont 1850 census opened a new portal for

the family of Lewis Hall's granddaughter Sally Ellis, to be continued in the next issue. For this issue, Bob also transcribed **HOUSEHOLDS WITH SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, FERRISBURGH, VERMONT, 1811**.

Kenneth W. Rockwell's **VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791: JOSEPH ROCKWELL OF MIDDLETOWN, VERMONT** creates a fascinating study of Middletown's first Town Clerk. Author Rockwell traces this family's Connecticut origins, including their residency in the Oblong section of Dutchess County, New York, before they moved to Vermont. One important discovery he shares is the identity of Joseph Rockwell's parents. Tantalizingly, as Town Clerk, Joseph did not write the maiden name of his daughter-in-law Rachel when he recorded his son Solomon's marriage in 1789.

Myrtle Stevens Hyde's **VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791: ABIJAH DRAKE OF CHES-TER, VERMONT** constructs an analysis of the Drake family's movement from western Massachusetts to Cheshire County, New Hampshire, after the American Revolution, and eventually to Vermont, where the family lived in several locations. She extends her research by presenting two case studies for the proposed parentage of Abijah Drake and his wife Tabitha Plumley.

These studies of early Vermont families also reveal an underlying truth about Vermont genealogy: descendants of many families left the state. Hall descendants went to Michigan, Drakes to Ohio, and Rockwells to Illinois. This demographic trend makes the footprint of *Vermont Genealogy* much broader as we consider just how many people born in Vermont moved elsewhere. Our next issue inaugurates a new series called **VERMONTERS GONE WEST**, wherein we reclaim some of these individuals and their families. Some of these migrations come full circle. For example, Abijah Drake's son Paul died in Pennsylvania, and his great-great-grandson William Drake, born in Michigan, died in New Mexico. When William's granddaughter moved to Wallingford, Vermont, in 1976, she had no inkling of her roots in 18th-century Vermont. This issue brings her even more previously unknown ancestors.

New tools to solve old problems: Priscilla M. Partridge's **THE LOST SIBLINGS OF EZRA C. JONES OF HYDE PARK, VERMONT** uses DNA evidence to correct a misidentified father on a death certificate. What allowed her, though, to develop a fully detailed genealogical analysis of her Jones family was an extraordinary probate document from the Vermont State Archives. Readers will reap the results that come from an estate distribution with thirty-one names. Linguistic decoding skills helped solve **EVOLUTION OF A SURNAME: FRANK "DILLOR" EUGAIR OF PITTSFORD, VERMONT**, which traces how a French-Canadian family eventually settled on its one-of-a-kind American name. Drew Bartley returns with **SEEN ELSEWHERE IN 2014 AND 2015**, always a helpful annotated bibliography of Vermont articles in other periodicals.

My thanks, once again, to Joseph C. Anderson II, FASG, for his guidance, editing skills, and proof-reading acumen present throughout this issue. With *Vermont Genealogy*'s 2016's fall issue already in preparation, we move one step closer to this journal catching up with its 2017 production schedule.

Michael F. Dwyer, FASG
17 February 2017